Sprint
Together with NEXTEL

Sprint Nextel
2001 Edmund Halley Drive
Reston, VA 20191
Office: (703) 592-5112 Fax: (703) 433-4804

Michael B. Fingerhut
Director
Government Affairs – Federal Regulatory

May 23, 2007

By Electronic Submission

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *EX PARTE* PRESENTATION – Verizon Petition for Forbearance from Dominant Carrier Regulation for In-Region, Interexchange Services, WC Docket No. 06-56; Special Access Rates for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers, WC Docket No. 05-25

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Wednesday, May 23, 2007, Laura Carter, Vice President, Government Affairs, Anna Gomez, Vice President, Government Affairs, Chris Frentrup, Director, Government Affairs and the undersigned, on behalf of Sprint Nextel Corporation, met with Ian Dillner, Legal Advisor to Chairman Martin for wireline issues. At the meeting, Sprint Nextel continued to express its opposition to the forbearance petition filed by Verizon Communications, Inc. ("Verizon") that is at issue in WC Docket No. 06-56. Specifically, Sprint Nextel emphasized that a grant of the petition needed to be appropriately conditioned to ensure that competition is not harmed by the ability of Verizon to exploit its significant market power in the provision of access services, particularly special access services, to harm its competition in the downstream interexchange and wireless markets. In this regard, Sprint Nextel pointed out that the conditions imposed by the Commission when it granted (in part) Qwest Communication's similar forbearance petition, *Petition of Qwest Communications International Inc. for Forbearance from Enforcement of the Commission's Dominant Carrier Rules As They Apply After Section 272 Sunsets,* FCC 07-13 (released March 9, 2007), while necessary, are not sufficient in the case of Verizon.

Imposing more stringent conditions on Verizon is necessary for two reasons: (1) Verizon has about 106 million combined wireless and wireline customer connections, nearly 8 times the number of Qwest access lines; and (2) Verizon, unlike Qwest, is an integrated provider of not only local and long distance services but also wireless services. In fact, Verizon is one of the leading wireless providers in the United States. As an integrated provider of all of these services, Verizon has a strong incentive to use its wholesale market power to the detriment of those with whom it competes in the retail market. Thus, if granted, the forbearance must be teamed with sufficient conditions to enable competition by preventing Verizon from exercising exclusionary market power.

Sprint Nextel further stated that the Commission should address Verizon's exorbitant and discriminatory special access pricing by imposing strict conditions on special access pricing. In this vein, Sprint Nextel also urged that the Commission decide the Special Access Rulemaking in WC Docket No. 05-25 as rapidly as possible.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed electronically in the above-referenced dockets.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michael B. Fingerhut
Michael B. Fingerhut

cc: Ian Dillner